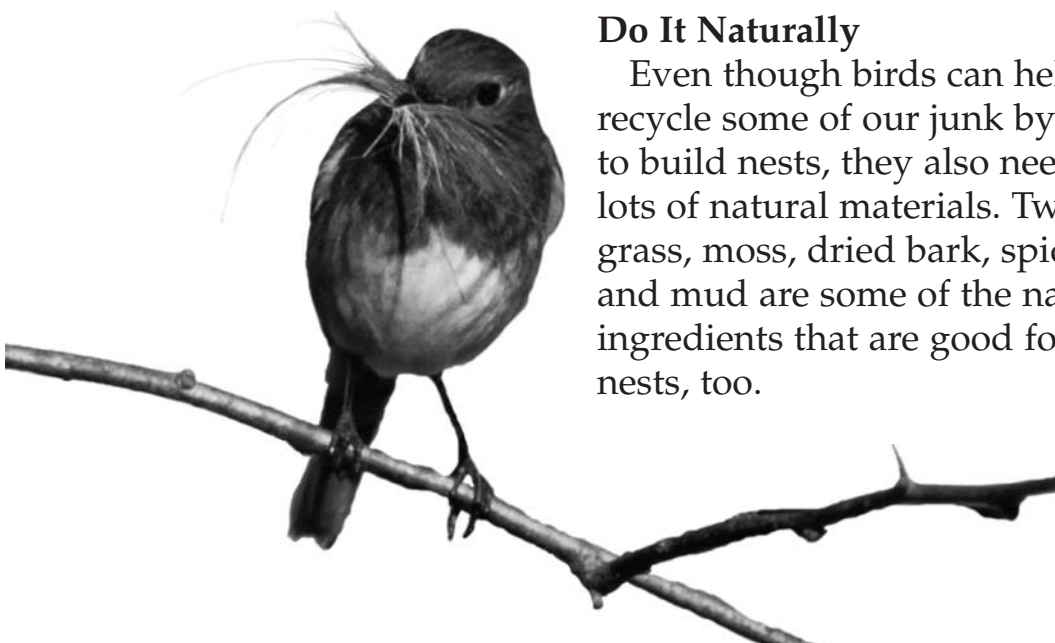


Birds Do It! RECYCLE!

If you collect paper, cloth, string or paper clips, your friends might call you a pack rat. But if you're a bird, you're just building the coolest house in the neighborhood!



Picky, Picky

Scientists have no idea exactly why birds choose certain objects to build their nests. But scientists know that the main reason birds build nests is to keep their babies safe, warm and healthy.

Chicks grow faster and are healthier when they are warm. They also learn to fly and leave the nest sooner than birds without warm homes.

What A Yarn

Yarn is big on an oriole's shopping list when nest building. Scientists are still trying to figure out why so many birds choose white yarn over other colors for nest building.

Scientists think that the white stuff reminds birds of cotton fluff they find in the wild.

Do It Naturally

Even though birds can help us recycle some of our junk by using it to build nests, they also need to use lots of natural materials. Twigs, long grass, moss, dried bark, spider's silk and mud are some of the natural ingredients that are good for nests, too.

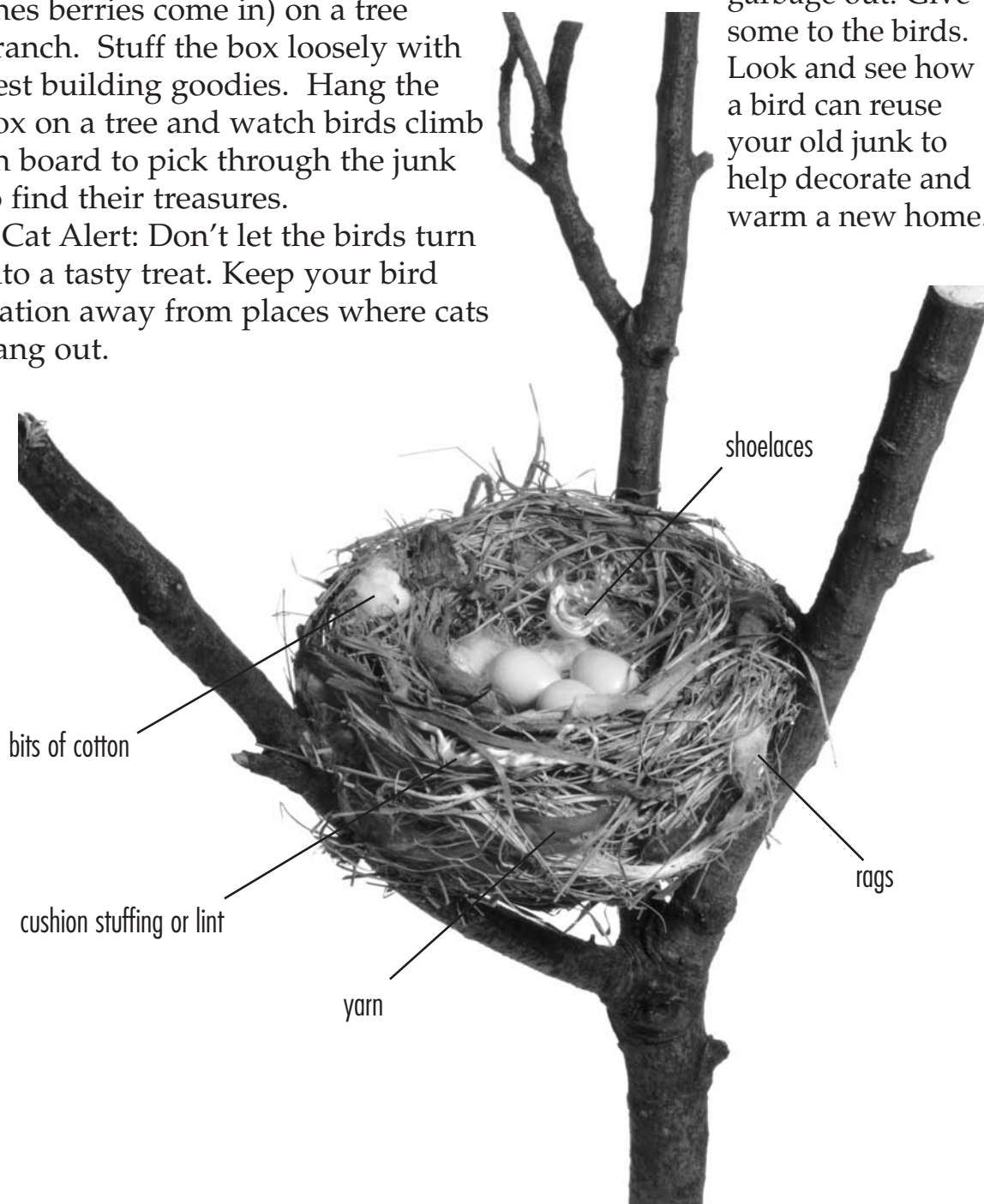
Reading Mini-Assessment Grade 3
LA.3.1.6.7 and LA.3.1.6.8 Form A

You can make a collection box of stuff to leave for birds so they can help themselves. Hang a small plastic box with holes (like the ones berries come in) on a tree branch. Stuff the box loosely with nest building goodies. Hang the box on a tree and watch birds climb on board to pick through the junk to find their treasures.

Cat Alert: Don't let the birds turn into a tasty treat. Keep your bird station away from places where cats hang out.

For The Birds!

Stop! Don't throw all that garbage out! Give some to the birds. Look and see how a bird can reuse your old junk to help decorate and warm a new home.



"Birds Do It! Recycle!" appeared in *Kid City* magazine. Copyright 1995 Sesame Workshop (New York, New York). All rights reserved. Photograph copyrighted © by John Shaw. Reprinted by permission of photographer. Photograph copyrighted © by Ilan Rubin. Reprinted by permission of photographer.

Reading Mini-Assessment Grade 3
LA.3.1.6.7 and LA.3.1.6.8 Form A

Name _____ Date _____

Directions: Read the passage and choose the correct answer.

1. Read this sentence from the article.

You can make a collection of stuff to leave for birds so they can help themselves.

Which word has the same base word as *collection*?

- A. colorful
- B. collectable
- C. condition
- D. corrected

2. Read this sentence from the article.

Scientists think that the white stuff reminds birds of cotton fluff they find in the wild.

Which word has the same base word as *scientists*?

- A. scenery
- B. scented
- C. sciences
- D. sentenced

3. Read this sentence from the article.

Chicks grow faster and are healthier when they are warm.

If *healthy* means “fit,” what does *healthier* mean?

- A. not fit
- B. more fit
- C. able to be fit
- D. in a way that is fit

Reading Mini-Assessment Grade 3
LA.3.1.6.7 and LA.3.1.6.8 Form A

4. Read this sentence from the article.

Look and see how your a bird can reuse your old junk to help decorate and warm a new home.

If *use* means “put to work,” what does *reuse* mean?

- A. not put to work
 - B. put to work again
 - C. able to be put to work
 - D. in a way that is put to work
5. Which pair of words from the article has almost the SAME meaning?
- A. garbage, junk
 - B. help, find
 - C. need, pick
 - D. warm, safe
6. Read this sentence from the article.

Stuff the box loosely with nest building goodies.

Which word has the OPPOSITE meaning of the the word *loosely*?

- A. carefully
- B. easily
- C. quickly
- D. tightly

Reading Mini-Assessment Grade 3
LA.3.1.6.7 and LA.3.1.6.8 Form A

7. Which pair of words from the article has almost the SAME meaning?

- A. bits, holes
- B. objects, berries
- C. treasures, goodies
- D. twigs, nests

8. Read this sentence from the article.

They also learn to fly and leave the nest sooner than birds without warm homes.

Which word has the OPPOSITE meaning of the the word *leave*?

- A. give
- B. pull
- C. remember
- D. stay

Reading Mini-Assessment Grade 3
LA.3.1.6.7 and LA.3.1.6.8 Form A

ANSWER KEY

1. Read this sentence from the article.

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Item #	Answer	Bench- mark
1.	B	167
2.	C	167
3.	B	167
4.	B	167
5.	A	168
6.	D	168
7.	C	168
8.	D	168

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<p style="text-align: center;">Reading Mini-Assessment Grade 3 LA.3.1.6.7 and LA.3.1.6.8 Form A</p>

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